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14 SEP 30 1999 MS. VIERECK: Hello everyone. My name is
15 Jennifer Viereck. I live just over the border in California in
16 Tecopa.

17 Before I begin, I've looked around this room and
18 I see a lot of imagery. Nowhere do I see the image of Yucca
19 Mountain itself. I want to let you know I'm wearing it.

20 20 This is Yucca Mountain. It's a very, very
21 beautiful place. It's been sacred to many people for many
22 years.

23 The DOE acknowledges in its books that it's very
24 special to over seventeen tribal groups. It's traditional name
25 is serpent swimming west, and there are many people who come

1 together every spring to have a four-day prayer ceremony on the
2 east side.

3 I thought perhaps some of you didn't know that
4 and I wanted to share that with you.

5 Before I get into my comments tonight, I need to
6 address some of the things that I've heard while I was here,
7 because they affected me very emotionally, and I'm not going to
8 be clear about the other things that I'd like to address.

1 9 First of all, the responses to people's very
10 heartfelt questions about health concerns and radioactive
11 releases, I have to say with all due respect to the DOE people
12 here, they sounded to me very glib and somewhat patronizing,
13 and given the DOE's history, I think it's very unfair to the
14 people in this room.

2 15 All of us are already exposed on a nearly daily
16 basis to shipments of so-called low-level waste coming to

17 Nevada Test Site.

18 None of those shipments would be necessary had
19 not DOE facilities all over the United States already had
20 contamination problems that are being mitigated now in this
21 way.

22 So we need to think about that. We wouldn't have
23 low-level waste at the Nevada Test Site if there were not
24 already DOE problems that those people in those communities
25 were told would never happen.

1 I personally followed four low-level waste trucks
2 only by accident. I happened upon them between Tonopah and
3 Beatty. They never once went under 95 miles an hour. I was
4 unable to keep up with them.

5 It was a convoy of four nuclear waste trucks in
6 month of May this year, so to me, the problem of accidents is
7 very, very real.

8 I was very frightened that night alone on the
9 highway with these four trucks at those high speeds.

10 In Chicago, we had a truck that had a low-level
11 waste spill on the highway. There were unprepared firemen in
12 the area. There were unprepared healthcare people in the area.

13 What was done, that waste was hosed into the
14 river. There's a hell of a lot of people that live downstream
15 from Chicago.

16 This is just a few things that relatives and
17 friends around the country have brought to my attention.

18 We know that the trucks coming into the Nevada
19 Test Site have leakage going across the Hoover Dam. All of the

20 trucks were stopped that were coming in from Fernald, Ohio
21 because of that.

22 So accidents do happen, and we don't want to be
23 patronized. We want the real data and we want to be able to
24 look at it realistically.

25 I want to take the positive look and assume that

1 it was out of respect for our communities here since we're the
2 highest impacted communities that we have an opportunity to
3 speak to these issues first, but as many other people have said
4 before me, I don't feel that I've had time to deal with this,
5 and so the bulk of my comments will be in writing, and I'm very
6 glad you all have a fax number because I think it will take me
7 until February 8th to prepare a response to this voluminous box
8 that arrived by the postman.

12 9 I also think that the transportation issues need
10 to be addressed much more widely. I agree with the former
11 speakers that Pahrump needs a new opportunity to address this.

13 12 It wasn't widely publicized. There will be many
13 people in our community who want to be heard, and they
14 certainly have a right to, and they have a right to more than
15 five minutes.

16 Frankly if you guys have to stay up a little late
17 tonight, we've been losing sleep over this for a long time.
18 People should be heard.

3... 19 I believe that every single community along these
20 transportation corridors needs to have the opportunity to
21 address these issues, to examine their own services and find
22 out what would happen to them, how would they deal with it.

...3

23 It's going to go within half a mile of 50 million
24 American homes. It's going to pass through 109 cities over a
25 hundred thousand people, and many, many, many small communities
1 like ours.

2 I also want to acknowledge that this is Don't
3 Waste Nevada Day. Do we all know this? This is officially
4 Don't Waste Nevada Day. I just thought I would bring that to
5 our attention.

6 Besides the reprocessing problem in Japan, which
7 is melting down as we speak, I'm sure those people in that
8 community were told that it was safe and their children were
9 safe, there was adequate healthcare to deal with it, and we all
10 need to pray for them now.

14

11 We also had a nuclear weapons test again this
12 morning. Someone said the tests are over. They're not over.
13 We had one today over at the Nevada Test Site.

14 That's another way in which our community
15 continues to be exposed, and the cumulative impacts of that and
16 adding Yucca Mountain to that I don't feel are adequately
17 addressed in what I've been able to read of this document.

15

18 As someone said earlier, Nevada does have a law
19 protecting it from deliveries of this kind, this type of high-
20 level waste. I think that needs to be looked at.

21 It's certainly not the purview of an EIS, but
22 it's an ongoing serious issue if the Federal Government and the
23 State of Nevada are going to continue to be at odds. That's
24 going to affect all of us in a variety of ways.

25 We also have as someone else mentioned a law that

1 makes it a felony to pollute the waters of our state with a
2 variety of toxic substances, which includes radioactivity.

3 I believe that each and every person who
4 continues to reassure us that this is a safe problem, a safe
5 way of dealing with this issue, if that should occur, I believe
6 that each and every person is personally liable under those
7 felony laws.

11

8 I also want to address the language of this Draft
9 EIS. I think that it continues to be extremely misleading and
10 unfair to the public to refer to this material as spent nuclear
11 fuel.

12 There's nothing spent about it. It is one
13 million times more radioactive when it comes out of that
14 reactor than when it goes in. One million times. There's
15 nothing spent about it.

16 When you or I spend our money, we look at our
17 checkbook balance and there ain't nothing there, right? Not a
18 million bucks. So let's use correct language and not deceive
19 each other.

4...

20 I also want to address briefly the issue of the
21 Western Shoshone treaty. I think that it's very important that
22 people be aware that these 230 square miles they're talking
23 about withdrawing are in addition to the enormous amount of
24 land that was withdrawn for the Nevada Test Site in 1948.

25 There are ongoing federal and international
1 litigations around this treaty, and this will continue to cause
2 problems.

3 The Organization of American States has

4 acknowledged this treaty and people are going to continue to
5 fight for it, so that will continue to be a problem.

6 As far as --

7 MR. BROWN: If you can --

8 MS. VIERECK: -- DEIS does go --

9 UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: Don't stop
10 her. Don't stop her.

11 MS. VIERECK: I don't think you have the
12 authority to limit my comments.

13 UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: This hearing
14 goes on till ten o'clock, sir.

15 MS. VIERECK: I feel that we all have the right
16 to hear each other and I don't think you have that authority.

17 UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: Sorry you
18 want to go home early.

16...

19 MS. VIERECK: As far as the DEIS does go, my
20 understanding is that the only valid reason to move this waste
21 from where it is is that this is a safer alternative and that
22 the purpose is to isolate this nuclear waste from the
23 environment and from human life.

24 From what I was able to read of the DEIS, it was
25 very clear to me that this is not even remotely possible. The

1 isolation of this waste from the environment is not something
2 the DEO -- DOE hopes to achieve.

3 What this document is all about is how this waste
4 can be slowed down from penetrating the environment, what are
5 the various ways that can happen, and so if we can't isolate
6 this waste, if we're going to assume that it's a failure, then

7 why are we even here talking about it?

5 8 Why can't we keep it where it is until we develop
9 a safer technology that won't poison people?

17 10 Another part of the document that concerned me is
11 that it does not address the entire problem. At the maximum,
12 it addresses a 10,000 year period.

13 Now I've been taught all my life that when you
14 try to solve a problem that you've created, you try to solve
15 the whole problem, not half of it.

16 I think every parent in this room has tried to
17 instill that value in their children. You don't do half the
18 dishes; you don't clean half your room. If you've made a mess,
19 you clean it all up.

20 10,000 years is the half-life of plutonium.
21 That's half the problem. Who do you people expect are going to
22 be around? Some mutants or something to deal with the other
23 half 10,000 years down the road?

...6 24 I feel that this DEIS is utterly inadequate
25 because it does not address the entire lifespan of the

1 contaminants under consideration, and if you think it's
2 ridiculous to try to draft a document that covers 250,000
3 years, maybe we should have thought how ridiculous that was
4 before we started having nuclear reactors.

5 There's even something in there called Neptunium
6 237 that doesn't peak in releasing radioactivity for 315,000
7 years. That's when it finally hits its top span.

8 I couldn't even understand that graph. I need to
9 go back and look at it again.

18 10 The third problem I have with it in terms of
11 large scale problems is that as other people have mentioned,
12 there's no final plan for us to look at.
13 My understanding of the NEPA laws are that there
14 needs to be a pre -- a preferred alternative presented to us to
15 look at.

7... 16 There is not a preferred transportation route in
8 17 that book. There isn't a preferred design for the repository.
18 In the summary portion of the repository, all of those pictures
19 have one block of tunnels.

20 Well, if you start pawing through that other
21 stuff, those other two great big books that look like the
22 telephone book, there's blocks in there going up to possibly
23 eight of those blocks. That's very misleading.

9 24 Whatever's in the summary should at least be
25 indicative with what is in the rest of the document.

19 1 I believe that there needs to be a revision, as
2 other people have said, that includes what it is you want us to
3 look at and then we'll look at it again.

...7 4 We want to know what are the transportation
5 routes. We don't want to see some generalized here's a few
6 alternatives, but you guys will make the decision later on.

19 7 We want to know what are you trying to do and we
8 want to have an opportunity to address that, both in terms of
9 the design of the facility and the transportation of the
10 materials that would get to it.

11 The fourth serious inadequacy that I found just
10... 12 in a brief overview is the issue of earthquakes. I found they

13 were barely addressed at all. They were glossed over a great
14 deal.

15 This seems to me pretty presumptuous since in
16 June of 1992, the buildings out there had over a million and a
17 quarter dollars worth of damage as I recall based on earthquake
18 damage, so it seems like this would be something the DOE would
19 look into in a serious manner.

20 There are, as people have said tonight, thirty-
21 two fault lines running under that mountain. I looked at the
22 maps in the larger books and there were tunnels that are
23 drilled straight through fault lines, there are tunnels that
24 have fault lines that kind of end up in them. There's tunnels
25 that go along fault lines and there was very little

1 documentation to explain this to me.

2 I would like to see earthquakes addressed much
3 more seriously.

4 Nevada is the third most likely nation in the
5 country following California and Alaska for earthquake
6 problems, and the western portion of the state is the worst.

7 There was a 6.7 earthquake not far from there
8 earlier this summer. My home was eighty miles away and it
9 seriously rattled my dishes.

10 I know there was people on the Duckwater
11 Reservation in the northeastern part of the state who felt that
12 earthquake, as well.

13 So I really wish the EIS would address this
14 issue.

15 I would like to submit this map which is a map of

16 all the earthquakes in the immediate vicinity between 1976 and
17 1996.

18 As you can see, there's quite a few. These are
19 just the ones that were over 2.5 in magnitude, and these are
20 the earthquakes from the most recent week.

21 There was over four -- excuse me. There were two
22 that were over 4.0 between Goldfield and Beatty on this map
23 here. This is just the most recent one.

24 MR. BROWN: Excuse me. If I can just suggest
25 something. One of the earlier speakers who signed up agreed

1 to --

2 MS. VIERECK: I've got about two more sentences.

3 MR. BROWN: Okay. That's fine. Thank you.

...10

4 MS. VIERECK: This is the list of the earthquakes
5 that are over this magnitude. There was a total of fifty-nine
6 in the last week, minor tremors.

7 Thank you.